

## Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers, comprising:

said method comprising a first step of inserting into a central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and;

said method comprising a second step of inserting into said central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and;

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server; and

said method comprising a third step of updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1, comprising:

wherein within said first and said second step also an application-server-identification is inserted into said central availability-database and associated with said first- and said second-data-element.

4. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 3, comprising:

wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.

5. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 1, comprising:

wherein said central availability-database is shared by a multitude of application-servers each comprising a hot-pool of said one or multitude of application-servers, and;

wherein for said hot-pool a watchdog is monitoring said hot-pool's availability status, and;

wherein said method is being executed by said watchdog, and;

wherein said availability-signal is being repeated as long as at least one of said application-servers of said hot-pool is available, and

wherein within said first and said second step also a hot-pool-identification is inserted into said central availability-database and is associated with said first- and said second-data-element.

6. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 2, comprising:

whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

7. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for indicating availability according to claim 5, comprising:

whereby as a second difference the difference of said recent availability-time and a previous availability-time is included in said measure of availability.

8. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request, comprising:

said method comprising a first step of querying a central availability-database  
        for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-  
        period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being  
        repeated as long as said application-server is available,and;

        for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its  
        time-stamp as recent availability-time,and;

    said method comprising a second step of determining a measure of availability of  
    said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent  
    availability-time to said notification-period;,

    said method comprising a third step of issuing an application-service-request to  
    said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said  
    application-server,; and

wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of  
    said application server, if said difference exceeds said notification periodsaid method  
    comprising a fourth step of updating said notification-period depending on the amount of  
    workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload  
    increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload  
    decreases.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for determining availability  
according to claim 8, comprising:

    wherein said method is querying in said first step also for a third-data-element  
comprising a previous availability-time for a previous availability-signal,; and

    wherein in said second step also as a second difference the difference of said recent  
availability-time and said previous availability-time is included in said measure of  
availability.

11. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8, comprising:

wherein said measure of availability indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period by a factor of N.

12. (Currently Amended): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 10, comprising:

wherein said method is being executed for a multitude of application-servers, and; wherein in said third step

a subset of application-servers, comprising application-servers for which said measure of availability indicates availability, is determined, and

for each application-server within said subset its corresponding measure of availability is interpreted as a workload indication, and

said application-service-request is being issued to an application-server with the lowest workload.

13. (Currently Amended): A system indicating availability of one or a multitude of application-servers, said system comprising:

a first device for inserting into a ~~persistent~~-central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available, and;

said device further inserts into said ~~persistent~~-central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and;

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server; and

said device updates the notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

14. (Currently Amended): A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions ~~comprises~~comprising:

a first software code portion for inserting into a persistent-central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as ~~said~~an application-server is available, ~~and;~~

a second software code portion for inserting into said persistent-central availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, ~~and;~~

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server, ~~and;~~ and

~~said method comprising a third step of a third software portion for updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server~~

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases, ~~and;~~

~~— wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.~~

15. (Currently Amended): A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium, ~~including~~comprising:

readable code for inserting into a ~~remote~~-central availability-database a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as an application-server is available, ~~said remote central availability database comprising a persistent file system separate from said application server~~, and;

readable code for inserting into said ~~remote central~~-availability-database a second-data-element comprising for each availability-signal its corresponding time stamp as availability-time, and

whereby, the difference of the current-time and a recent availability-time compared to said notification-period is representing a measure of availability of said application-server; and

readable code for updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

16. (Currently Amended): A system for determining availability of one or multitude of application-servers for accepting application-service-request, said system comprising:

a first device for querying a ~~remote and persistent~~-central availability-database; for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available; and

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

said device determines a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period, and;

wherein said device issues an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said application-server; and

said device updates the notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

17. (Currently Amended): A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions, said software code portions comprisescomprising:

a first software code portion for querying a ~~remote and persistent~~ central availability-database;

for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available; and

for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time;

a second software code portion to determine a measure of availability of said application-servers by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period; and;

a third software code portion to issue an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said application-server; and

a fourth software code portion for updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server

either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases,

or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

18. (Currently Amended): A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising a computer readable program embodied in said medium including comprising:

readable code for querying a ~~remote and persistent~~ central availability-database; for a first-data-element comprising a notification-period, said notification-period defining an upper time limit for a repetition-period of an availability-signal being repeated as long as said application-server is available; and for a second-data-element comprising for a recent availability-signal its time-stamp as recent availability-time; readable code for determining a measure of availability of said application-server by comparing the difference of the current-time and said recent availability-time to said notification-period; and readable code for issuing an application-service-request to said application-server only, if said measure of availability indicates availability of said application-server; and readable code for updating said notification-period depending on the amount of workload of said application-server either by increasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload increases, or by decreasing said notification-period, if said amount of the workload decreases.

19. (New): A computerized method for determining availability according to claim 8, comprising

wherein said measure of availability of the second step indicates unavailability of said application-server, if said difference exceeds said notification-period.